

## ***FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** December 7, 2017

**Agenda Item:** 2018-2019 Deer Hunting Seasons and Hunting District Boundaries

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 20 Min

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**Background:** Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the Commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing 2017 structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

Deer populations in much of the state are recovering from lows of a few years ago and have grown to very high numbers in some parts of the state. For 2018 and 2019 we are proposing liberalizing seasons and adding B Licenses for both mule and white-tailed deer in many hunting districts. Some of the more substantial changes are:

Region 2 - Either-sex whitetail opportunity with a general license during the first nine days of the general season

Region 3 - Remove unlimited mule deer buck permits and go to an any buck season in HDs 318, 335, 339, 340 or either-sex in HDs 329, 340 in accordance with population status and the Commission-approved FWP Adaptive Harvest Management Plan

Region 4 - Add 004-00 Over-the-Counter Whitetail B-licenses valid during archery and general season for all districts except 455

Region 6 - Add mule deer B licenses in HDs 600, 611, 641, 652, 621 and 622  
Add 699-00 WT B License valid in all R6 HDs during archery and general seasons

These and all proposed changes are on the Commission Master List and justifications are in the Commission Packet for the December meeting.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** Deer season comments were received during the August 20 – September 21 scoping and included interest in antlerless opportunities, access, and special muzzleloader and senior citizen seasons. In addition to public comment on proposed deer season structure changes taken during the December 7 Commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., January 24, 2018. Any final adoptions will take place at the February 2018 Commission meeting.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2017 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** Rationale for individual proposals is included in Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Dec. 7 Commission meeting.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt for public comment the 2018 and 2019 Deer Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of the deer season remain unchanged unless addressed in other proposals.